



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

May 8, 2015

System No. 4600017

Certified Mail/Return Receipt  
No. 7012 3460 0003 1113 1182

Larry Ostrom, Manager  
R.R. Lewis Small Water Company  
4500 E. Fremont Street  
Stockton, CA 95215

TRANSMITTAL OF COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. 01-02-15R-003

Dear Mr. Ostrom,

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), Division of Drinking Water, has issued the R.R. Lewis Small Water Company a compliance order, which is attached.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call staff engineer Steve Watson at (530) 224-4828 or me at (530) 224-4800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. McNamara".

Michael J. McNamara, P.E.  
Lassen District Engineer  
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

cc: Bruce Burton, Assistant Deputy Director  
Northern California Drinking Water Field Operations  
Richard L. Hinrichs, Chief, Northern California Section  
Rami Kahlon, California Public Utilities Commission

Enclosure: Compliance Order No. 01-02-15R-003

sww \ 4600017 RR Lewis \ File: Enforcement

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
**DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

**TO:** R.R. Lewis Small Water Company  
4500 E. Fremont Street  
Stockton, CA 95215

**Attn:** Larry Ostrom, Manager

**COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. 01-02-15R-003**  
**FOR**  
**VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS,**  
**TITLE 22, SECTION 64426.1(b) – WATER SYSTEM NO. 4600017**

**Issued on May 8, 2015**

The State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter "Board"), acting by and through its Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter "Division") and the Deputy Director for the Division (hereinafter "Deputy Director"), hereby issues this compliance order (hereinafter "Order") pursuant to Section 116655 of the California Health and Safety code (hereinafter "CHSC") to R.R. Lewis Small Water Company (hereinafter "Company") for violation of CHSC Section 116555(a)(1) and Title 22, California Code of Regulations (hereinafter "CCR"), Section 64426.1(b), during the month of April 2015.



**APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES****CHSC, Section 116655 states in relevant part:**

(a) Whenever the department determines that any person has violated or is violating this chapter, or any permit, regulation, or standard issued or adopted pursuant to this chapter, the director may issue an order doing any of the following:

- (1) Directing compliance forthwith.
- (2) Directing compliance in accordance with a time schedule set by the department.
- (3) Directing that appropriate preventive action be taken in the case of a threatened violation.

(b) An order issued pursuant to this section may include, but shall not be limited to, any or all of the following requirements:

- (1) That the existing plant, works, or system be repaired, altered, or added to.
- (2) That purification or treatment works be installed.
- (3) That the source of the water supply be changed.
- (4) That no additional service connection be made to the system.
- (5) That the water supply, the plant, or the system be monitored.
- (6) That a report on the condition and operation of the plant, works, system, or water supply be submitted to the department.

**CHSC, Section 116555(a)(1) states in relevant part:**

(a) Any person who owns a public water system shall ensure that the system does all of the following:

- (1) Complies with primary and secondary drinking water standards.

1 **California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 64426.1, subsection (b)**  
2 **provides, in relevant part:**

3  
4 (b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL  
5 [maximum contaminant level] when any of the following occurs:

6 (1) For a public water system which collects at least 40 samples per  
7 month, more than 5.0 percent of the samples collected during any month are total  
8 coliform-positive; or

9 (2) For a public water system which collects fewer than 40 samples  
10 per month, more than one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive;  
11 or

12 (3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive; or

13 (4) Any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-  
14 positive routine sample is total coliform-positive.

15  
16 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

17  
18 The Company operates a community water system which serves a population of  
19 approximately 324 people through 123 service connections. The water system  
20 includes two gravity springs, known as Anderson Spring and Wixson Spring. The  
21 Anderson Spring water supply system includes five raw water storage reservoirs and  
22 a continuous sodium hypochlorite disinfection treatment system. The Wixson Spring  
23 water supply system includes one storage reservoir known as the Wixson Tank, and  
24 delivers untreated water to the distribution system. The distribution system contains  
25 four pressure zones. Water from the Anderson Spring water supply system can serve  
26 the entire distribution system. Water from the Wixson Spring water supply system  
27 can serve one of the pressure zones in the distribution system and part of a second

zone. The Company operates under a Water Supply Permit No. 01-02-93(P)46023, issued on December 31, 1993.

On April 6, 2015, five routine bacteriological samples were collected from the following sample site locations: 2A, 4A, 5A, 6W, and 7W. The samples from 2A, 4A, and 5A, were all absent of total coliform bacteria. These sample sites represent water from the Anderson Spring water supply system. Samples from sites 6W and 7W were found to show the presence of total coliform bacteria. Both of these sample sites were being served water from the Wixson Spring water supply system. These sample results were reported by Cranmer Laboratory on April 7, 2015.

The Company collected eight repeat bacteriological samples on April 9, 2014, with the following results reported by Cranmer Laboratory on April 10, 2015:

Time	Location	Description	Designation	Total Coliform	E.coli
				Result	Result
08:40	6W	Original Positive	Repeat	Absent	Absent
08:30	522 Brady	near 6W	Repeat	Absent	Absent
08:34	530 Brady	near 6W	Repeat	1.0 MPN	Absent
08:55	8W	Wixson Tank	Repeat	5.3 MPN	Absent
08:46	7W	Original Positive	Repeat	1.0 MPN	Absent
08:56	8W	Wixson Tank	Repeat	1.0 MPN	Absent
09:02	9W	Wixson Spring	Repeat	1.0 MPN	1.0 MPN
09:16	117 Wild Plum	near 7W	Repeat	1.0 MPN	Absent

MPN = Most Probable Number

Due to the significant rise in bacterial count, on April 10, 2015, the Division directed the Company to issue a Boil Water Advisory to its customers instructing them to boil their water or use bottled water for domestic purposes. On the same day, the Company reportedly issued this advisory. Since the contamination appeared to be originating from the Wixson Spring, the Company also immediately discontinued its use and began serving the entire distribution system with water from the Anderson Spring, which is continuously disinfected with sodium hypochlorite.

Between April 11, 2015, and April 12, 2015, the company reportedly flushed the distribution system with disinfected water from the Anderson Spring. On April 13, 2015, the Company collected six additional samples in order to determine if the contamination had been eliminated. The results reported on April 14, 2015, are as follows:

Time	Location	Description	CI Residual	Total Coliform	E.coli
				Result	Result
10:33	6A	Original Positive	0.61 ppm	Absent	Absent
10:48	530 Brady	near 6A	0.33 ppm	Absent	Absent
11:04	522 Brady	near 6A	0.35 ppm	Absent	Absent
10:01	7A	Original Positive	0.35 ppm	Absent	Absent
09:43	117 Wild Plum	near 7A	0.42 ppm	Absent	Absent
09:29	215 Wild Plum Rdg.	near 7A	0.29 ppm	Absent	Absent

ppm = parts per million free chlorine residual

On April 14, 2015, the Division notified the Company that based on these results the Boil Water Advisory issued to their customers could be cancelled. Reportedly, the Company cancelled the Boil Water Advisory on April 15, 2015.



1 In addition to this contamination event during April 2015, Division records show that  
2 the water from the Wixson Spring supply system has been contaminated with total  
3 coliform bacteria on six other occasions over the past ten years. These events have  
4 resulted in the Company being in violation of the total coliform MCL on four separate  
5 occasions during this time period, including a violation associated with the presence  
6 of E.coli bacteria in the Wixson Spring supply system in August of 2008.

### 7 8 DETERMINATIONS

9  
10 Based on the above Statement of Facts, the Division has determined that the  
11 Company violated Section 64426.1(b)(3), Title 22, of the CCR, in that the Company  
12 exceeded the total coliform bacteria MCL during the month of April 2015.

13  
14 Based on the above Statement of Facts, the Division has determined that Wixson  
15 Spring water supply system is susceptible to total coliform bacteria contamination.

### 16 17 DIRECTIVES

18  
19 Pursuant to Section 116655, Article 9, Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 104 of the CHSC,  
20 the Division and its Director hereby orders and directs the Company:

21  
22 1. Comply with Section 64426.1, Title 22, of the CCR in all future monitoring  
23 periods.

24  
25 2. Complete and return Attachment 'A' entitled "Certification of Completion of  
26 Public Notification" by **May 15, 2015**. A copy of the notices used to provide public

1 notification of both the boil water advisory and its cancellation shall be attached to the  
2 form.

3 3. On or before **July 1, 2015**, submit for Division approval a Corrective Action  
4 Plan identifying improvements to the water system designed to continuously and  
5 reliably disinfect the water from the Wixson Spring water supply system in order to  
6 ensure compliance with the primary standard for total coliform bacteria at all times.  
7 The plan shall include a time schedule for completion of the improvements.

8  
9 4. On or before **November 1, 2015**, the Company shall provide continuous,  
10 reliable chlorination of the Wixson Spring water supply.

11  
12 5. Beginning **July 1, 2015**, the Company shall collect weekly samples from the  
13 Wixson Spring (sample site 9W or 10W), prior to the Wixson Tank, and analyze for  
14 turbidity. This sampling will continue until June 1, 2016, or otherwise instructed by the  
15 Division.

16  
17 6. Prior to **June 1, 2016**, the Company shall collect at least two samples from  
18 the Wixson Spring (sample site 9W or 10W) when the spring source is likely to be  
19 contaminated by surface water. One sample shall be collected during an extended  
20 period of little or no rainfall and another sample shall be collected during heavy rainfall  
21 or snow melt. The samples shall be collected and tested according to the Microscopic  
22 Particulate Analysis (MPA) test method for determining groundwater under the direct  
23 influence of surface water. The Company must also measure the turbidity of the  
24 water from the Wixson Spring immediately before collecting the MPA samples. Along  
25 with the analysis results, the Company shall also submit a written description of the  
26 weather conditions (i.e. amount of rainfall, snow melt, number of days without rainfall)  
27 that were occurring during or prior to the sampling event. Results of these analyses





1 shall be submitted to the Division within 10 days of the Company receiving the MPA  
2 results from the laboratory.

3  
4 7. Notify the Division in writing no later than five (5) days prior to the deadline  
5 for performance of any Directive set forth herein if the Company anticipates it will not  
6 timely meet such performance deadline.

7  
8 All submittals required by this Order shall be submitted to the Division at the following  
9 address:

10  
11 Michael J. McNamara, P. E.  
12 Lassen District Engineer  
13 Division of Drinking Water  
14 State Water Resources Control Board  
15 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101  
16 Redding, CA 96002  
17

18 As used in the Order, the date of issuance shall be the date of this Order; and the  
19 date of service shall be the date of service of this Order, personal or by certified mail,  
20 on the District.

21  
22 The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Order and/or to  
23 issue such further order(s) as it may deem necessary to protect public health and  
24 safety. Such modifications may be issued as amendments to this Order and shall be  
25 deemed effective upon issuance.  
26

1 Nothing in this Order relieves the Company of its obligation to meet the requirements  
2 of the California Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), or any regulation, standard, or  
3 permit issued thereunder.

4  
5 The State of California shall not be liable for any injuries or damages to persons or  
6 property resulting from acts or omissions by the Company, its employees, agents, or  
7 contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order, nor shall the State of  
8 California be held as a party to any contract entered into by the Company or its  
9 agents in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order.

#### 10 11 **FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

12  
13 The California SDWA authorizes the Board to: issue a citation with assessment of  
14 administrative penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation of  
15 the requirements of the California SDWA or any regulation, permit, standard, citation,  
16 or order issued or adopted thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a  
17 violation identified in a citation or compliance order. The California SDWA also  
18 authorizes the Board to take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been  
19 issued to a public water system if the public water system has violated applicable law  
20 or regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the Board; and to petition the  
21 superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system  
22 that has failed to comply with an order of the Board. The Board does not waive its  
23 right to take any further or additional enforcement action(s) against the Company.

24  
25 The Company's failure to comply with any directive set forth in the Order by the time  
26 prescribed herein may result in further administrative penalties in the amount of  
27 \$1,000 per day per violation, pursuant to CHSC, Section 116650, and/or civil

penalties in the amount of up to \$25,000 per day per violation pursuant to CHSC,  
Section 116725.

**PARTIES BOUND**

This Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Company, its officers, directors,  
agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

**SEVERABILITY**

The directives of this Order are severable, and the Company shall comply with each  
and every provision thereof notwithstanding the effectiveness of any provision.

5/8/2015

Date



Richard L. Hinrichs

Richard L. Hinrichs, P.E., Chief  
Northern California Section  
Division of Drinking Water  
State Water Resources Control Board

Attachments:

Attachment A: Certification of Completion of Public Notification

Certified Mail No. 7012 3460 0003 1113 1182

Date \_\_\_\_\_